## STUDY & WORK PLAN PROPOSAL

## As Adopted on Sept. 14, 2017

#### \*changes noted

Prepared for the

#### State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee 2017-18

by Sheri Scurr, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division September 14, 2017

#### **Purpose**

This paper presents a study plan proposal for the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee to consider, revise as appropriate, and adopt by majority vote. A study plan provides committee members and staff with a blue print for structuring the committee's work according to agreed upon topics and priorities. The study questions and the proposed approach to answering theses questions are used to set each meeting's agenda items. A study plan also informs interested stakeholders about what to expect during the interim.

The proposed study questions and approach as outlined in Table 1 is organized into a work plan proposal offered at this end of this paper. This work plan is organized by meeting date in Table 2 and by topic in Table 3.

The study and work plan are dynamic working documents subject to changes and refinements as work progresses. As a committee-approved plan, significant changes should not be made without the full committee's consent. Staff works with the presiding officer and vice-presiding officer when finalizing the agenda for each meeting.

#### Scope

This study plan is based on the committee's discussion during its July 20 meeting. At that meeting, committee members by consensus identified the following study topics and priorities, which are further detailed in this paper.

#### Tier one - highest priority

- I. Elections Aging Voting Systems
- II. Pension Plans Actuarial Funding Status

#### Tier two - lesser priority

- III. Veterans Suicide Prevention, Benefit Claims, VA Health Care System (transportation, future of the Miles City nursing home)
- IV. Campaign Contribution Limits
- V. Local Election Statutes special districts, city and county commission primary elections and partisan or nonpartisan basis
- VI. State Employee Pay Plan monitoring

## **TABLE 1 - STUDY PLAN**

I. Elections - Aging Voting Systems	Priority: Tier One (i.e,. highest priority)	
	a. Demonstrations:  - election administrators - instructional/training videos - private-sector experts on available systems  b. Staff report(s): - current statutes - system certification criteria (Sec. of State's role) - need for and use of voting systems in each county - issues and options regarding maintaining/replacing the systems  c. Special presentations (e.g., individual testimony and/or panel discussions): - NCSL - other states, available technologies, funding options - county election administrators - private-sector system experts, ES&S and various other vendors - county officials and finance officers  d. Committee work sessions - identification of issues appropriate for legislative action - selection of options for further analysis - preliminary recommendations - final recommendations	

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II. Pension Plans - Actuarial Funding Status	Priority: Tier One (i.e,. highest priority)	
<ul> <li>A. Background and education         <ol> <li>What are the key actuarial assumptions and how are they set?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. What is the actuarial funding status of each pension plan (special attention to any unsound systems following the Nov. 2017 actuarial valuations)?</li> <li>* Special presentations from experts from NCSL, CSG, the private sector, and others to inform the committee on investments of pension plans in other states to see if we need to adjust our approach in Montana. What could we do better? Perhaps a panel in January. Scope should be narrowed to those states that compare best with Montana.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Staff reports and presentations <ul> <li>Legislator's Guide</li> <li>Green Sheets</li> <li>Actuarial Association Professional Guidelines/Standards</li> <li>NCSL and other National Association fact sheets and comparisons with other states</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Presentations on actuarial valuation results (e.g., briefings from MPERA and TRS) *Include history of legislative changes.</li> <li>c. Presentations on MPERA and TRS experience studies (MPERA and TRS staff).</li> <li>d. *Special presentations upon request of the committee</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>B. <u>Issues and options identification</u></li> <li>1. Are legislative changes needed to maintain actuarial soundness?</li> <li>2. If so, what options for legislative action should be further analyzed?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Staff report on issues and options</li> <li>b. Stakeholder comments</li> <li>c. Committee work session(s) to instruct staff on what additional information should be provided</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>C. Committee recommendations <ol> <li>Does the committee wish to recommend specific legislation?</li> <li>If so, what should be provided for in the legislation?</li> </ol> </li> <li>What informational material should be made available for the 2019 Session?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Committee work session - instructions for drafting legislation (if any)</li> <li>b. Committee work session - final revisions and adoption of legislation (if any)</li> <li>c. Committee work session - final revisions and adoption of Legislator's Guide, guiding principles as required by statute, and any other materials SAVA deems would be valuable for the 2019 Session (e.g., the "green sheets")</li> </ul>	

Study Topic/Questions	Study Plan Approach	
III. Veterans - Suicide Prevention, Benefit Claims, VA Health Care System	Priority: Tier Two (i.e. lesser priority)	
A. Suicide Prevention  1. Education and background on state, VA, and MT National Guard Programs  * Continue to monitor as programs are implemented in case changes are needed.	a. Informational briefings  - Juliana Hallows, VA suicide prevention coordinator  - MT National Guard suicide prevention program	
<ul> <li>B. Benefit Claims <ol> <li>Education and background *Do this as a staff white paper</li> <li>What is the role of state Veteran Service Officers and how are they trained and certified?</li> <li>How do veterans for the paper of the</li></ol></li></ul>	<ul> <li>a. Informational briefings (after SAVA receives staff white paper) <ul> <li>MVAD</li> <li>VA</li> <li>Other stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Staff issues and options paper (if the committee identifies issues that may be addressed legislatively) *Include this as part of staff white paper</li> <li>ddress those issues?</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>C. VA Health Care System</li> <li>1. Future of Miles City nursing home</li> <li>2. Transportation issues (done at 9/14/17 mtg)</li> <li>3. Report on steering committee about allocation of VA health care resources in VISN 19 (Rocky Mountain Network)</li> </ul>	Informational briefings  - VA speaker on nursing home in Miles City  - VA and DAV speakers on transportation  - Joe Foster, administrator of MVAD, report on latest developments regarding the VISN 19 steering committee activities  * Staff white paper on VA health care system in VISN 19  ** White paper and info. briefing from Montana Medical Association (Ms. Branscum) to be presented to SAVA at a meeting in Spring 2018  - SAVA is especially interested in update on Vet Choice II	

Study Topic/Questions	Study Plan Approach
IV. Campaign Contribution Limits	Priority: Tier Two (i.e. lesser priority)
A. Background and education  1. What are the current contribution limits?  2. What are the facts and issues in the relevant court proceeding pending at the 9th Circuit?  3. What did the 2017 Legislature consider with respect to contribution limit changes?  * Information and updates to SAVA when a court decision has been made.	<ul> <li>a. Staff report(s)         <ul> <li>current statutes and COPP policies on contribution limits</li> <li>provisions of 2017 bills addressing contribution limits</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Briefings and invited testimony * after a court decision has been made         <ul> <li>Commissioner of Political Practices and staff</li> <li>Trial Lawyer's Assoc.</li> <li>Other interested persons/stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul> <li>B. Committee recommendations <ol> <li>Does the committee wish to recommend legislation?</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. If so, what should be provided for in the legislation?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Stakeholder comments</li> <li>b. Committee work session on whether to recommend legislation?</li> <li>b. If the committee chooses to recommend legislation, work session to take public comment and finalize bill draft(s)</li> </ul>

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A.	<ol> <li>Spe</li></ol>	a. Staff report on current statutes comparing provisions on:
В.	<ol> <li>Car</li></ol>	a
<u>C.</u>	<ul> <li>Partisan or nonpartisan municipal and county elections</li> <li>1. What are the statutory provisions concerning whether a municipal or county election must be held on a partisan or nonpartisan basis?</li> <li>2. Should these statutory provisions be changed in some way, and if so, how?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Staff report on current statutes comparing provisions applicable to whether partisan or nonpartisan elections are conducted for county and municipal commissions         * Targeted focus. Staff to identify where a statutory fix could be done and committee's time would be narrowed to this fix.</li> <li>b. Stakeholder comment</li> <li>c. Committee work session(s)</li> </ul>

Study Topic/Questions	SILUOV PIAIT AUDITUACIT	
VI. State Employee Pay Plan - monitoring	Priority: Tier Two (i.e. lesser priority)	
A. Background and education  1. What is the broadband pay plan?  2. How are positions classified?  3. What were the findings of recent legislaters changes?	<ul> <li>a. Staff report *Background brief <ul> <li>LFC's previous study and findings</li> <li>recent legislative changes from 2015 and 2017 Sessions</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. *Information briefings from the Department of Administration, classification and pay staff <ul> <li>classification factors</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Stakeholder comments</li> <li>d. Committee work session(s) if committee decides to develop recommendations for the 2019 Session</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>B. Correctional officers classification and pay (*Combined with overall pay plan information under VI. A.)</li> <li>1. What is the current pay rate for correctional officers?</li> <li>2. What are the challenges related to pay levels for these officers?</li> <li>3. What options should the legislature consider?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a. Informational briefings         <ul> <li>Department of Corrections</li> <li>Department of Administration, classification and pay</li> </ul> </li> <li>*Staff to check in with Sen. Wolken and Law and Justice Interim         <ul> <li>Committee about how the LJIC may be addressing this issue,</li> <li>especially staff shortages at correctional facilities. Info. to be shared with SAVA just for informational purposes.</li> <li>b. Stakeholder comments</li> <li>c. Committee work session(s) if the committee decides to develop recommendations for the 2019 Session</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

Study Topic/Questions	Study Flail Approach
NEW TOPIC VII. Disaster and Emergency Services	rriorπy: πιες τωο (ι.e. lesser priority)
A. Background and education     1. State plans compared to actual local readiness and related issues	a. Informational briefing from DES and related state and local
B. Committee options/recommendations 1. Could legislation, such as a study resolution, address some of f so, what should SAVA recommend?	<ul> <li>c. Exchange information with Local Gov't Interim Committee, which is studying first responders under two study resolutions (HJR 25 - municipal fire departments, and SJR 21 - EMTs and volunteer firefighter systems)</li> <li>d. Stakeholder comments</li> <li>e. Committee work session(s) if committee decides to develop recommendations for the 2019 Session</li> </ul>
NEW TOPIC VIII. Education for Children of Servicemembers	Priority: Tier Two (i.e. lesser priority)
Background and education on Interstate Compact for Military Children	Short informational briefing from the Office of Public Instruction

# TABLE 2 - Work Plan - By Meeting Date

Meeting Date	Main Agenda Items
Sept. 14, 2017	<ul> <li>Elections - ballot handling and rejected ballots (special request for information)</li> <li>Veterans suicide prevention, transportation - info. briefings</li> <li>Special district elections - staff report</li> </ul>
Nov. 14, 2017	<ul> <li>Elections - aging voting systems, AutoMark and ADA issue identification</li> <li>Pension plans - actuarial valuations and staff report on actuarial assumptions         * including legislative history</li> <li>*Staff white paper and info. briefing on veterans benefit claims process, VA health care system (report on Miles City and VISN 19 steering committee)</li> <li>Special district elections - continue statutory review</li> </ul>
Jan. 18, 2018	<ul> <li>Elections - aging voting systems, options identification</li> <li>Campaign contribution limits, overview of current law, court proceeding</li> <li>Any followup on veterans benefit claims process</li> <li>Special district election statutes - preliminary recommendations</li> <li>Any followup on requests for additional info. on pension plans</li> <li>* Special panel of experts (NCSL, CSG, private sector, other if appropriate) to address what other comparable states are doing and whether Montana could be addressing funding issues differently/better</li> </ul>
March 22, 2018	<ul> <li>Elections - aging voting systems - special presentations (NCSL, private sector vendors, election administrators, county finance, secretary of state's office)</li> <li>Any followup on campaign contribution issues *(only if a court decision has been made), or other tier two issues</li> <li>Local election statutes - staff report on inconsistencies *specific statutes related to local government election on whether the governing body is to be elected on a partisan or nonpartisan basis</li> <li>* State employee pay plan, staff report and info. briefings</li> </ul>
May 17, 2018	<ul> <li>Elections - aging voting systems - followup from March - begin developing preliminary recommendations</li> <li>Local election statutes - follow up, preliminary recommendations</li> <li>*Followup on state employee pay plan issues identified in March</li> <li>*Info. briefing on Interstate compact for Military Children</li> <li>Review any agency legislative concepts ready for SAVA review and authorization for bill drafting</li> </ul>
July 19, 2018	<ul> <li>Elections - aging voting systems - further work on recommendations</li> <li>Pension plan actuarial funding - TRS experience study, further information and committee discussion on pension funding issues</li> <li>Other issues - public hearings on any preliminary recommendations/committee legislation</li> <li>Review any agency legislative concepts ready for SAVA review and authorization for bill drafting</li> </ul>
Aug. 23, 2018	<ul> <li>Review all remaining agency legislative concepts ready for SAVA review and authorization for bill drafting</li> <li>Review and adopt any final reports and committee legislation</li> </ul>
Nov., 2018 (date TBD, coordinate with session orientation)	Pension plans  - Review actuarial valuations  - Finalize any committee legislation on pensions  - Review and adopt legislators guide, green sheets, and any other materials for legislators on pension plans for 2019 Session

# TABLE 3 - Work Plan - By Topic

Topic	Meeting Dates and Agenda Items
Election Systems	Sept. 14, 2017  - Staff report on statutes concerning voting system certification and returned ballot processing  - Demo on statewide voter registration data base  - Background info. on how returned and absentee ballots are handled  - Intro. to AutoMark system for disabled voters  Nov. 14, 2017  - More info. on AutoMark, other voting systems used in Montana  - Tour of county election office  - *Common Access Cards and digital signatures, staff background brief, invited testimony  - Issue identification for further analysis  Jan. 18, 2018  - Aging voting system, *including CAC and digital signatures, analysis of identified issues  - Selection of options for further consideration  March 22, 1018  - Special expert testimony (NCSL, private vendors, other states, election administrators  May 17, 2018  - Develop preliminary recommendations, instructions on any bill drafts  July 19, 2018
Pension Plans	Nov. 14, 2017  Receive reports on actuarial valuations Identify issues for further analysis Jan. 18, 2018  Followup on information requests from Nov. meeting  *Special panel of experts (NCSL, CSG, private sector, other if appropriate) to address what other comparable states are doing and whether Montana could be addressing funding issues differently/better July 19, 2018  Report on TRS experience study Identify issues for further analysis/info. requests Aug., 2018  Follow up on information requests from July meeting Develop framework for any committee pension legislation Nov., 2018  Review new actuarial valuations Review "green sheets" Adopt guiding principles Review and approve Legislator's Guide to Montana's Public Employee Retirement Systems Finalize any committee pension legislation

Topic	Meeting Dates and Agenda Items
Veterans' Affairs	<ul> <li>Sept. 14, 2017         <ul> <li>Info. briefings on VA and DAV transportation assets, locations, processes</li> <li>Info. briefings on state and VA suicide data and prevention efforts</li> </ul> </li> <li>Nov. 14, 2017         <ul> <li>*Staff white paper on benefit claims process, role of state veteran services officers, claims processing at VA</li> <li>Info. briefing on status of VA health care system changes, such as closure of Miles City nursing home</li> </ul> </li> <li>March 22, 2018         <ul> <li>*Hear from Montana Medical Association about Vet Choice II and any other related VA health care issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>July 19, 2018         <ul> <li>Committee to finalize any recommendations or legislation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Campaign Contribution Limits  Special District Elections	Jan. 18, 2018  Staff report on current statutes and COPP decisions Info. briefings on issues concerning pending court case March 22, 2018  Follow up on any additional information requests from Jan. meeting  *Information and updates if a court decision has been made  If discussions yield further information requests or a request for committee legislation, this may be added to the agenda and meeting schedule subject to committee approval.  July 19, 2018  Committee to finalize any recommendations or legislation  Sept. 14, 2017  Staff report - background and begin to analyze current statutes  Nov. 14, 2017  Staff report - continued analysis of current statutes  Stakeholder comments, feedback Jan. 18, 2018  Staff report - continued analysis of current statutes  Committee to develop any preliminary recommendations/legislation  Stakeholder comments July 19, 2018  Finalize any recommendations or legislation
Local Government Elections - cancellation of primaries - partisan or nonpartisan election	March 22, 2018 - Staff report on inconsistencies *statute in question about nonpartisan vs. partisan election - Stakeholder comments May 17, 2018 - Develop preliminary recommendations, instructions on any bill drafts July 19, 2018 - Finalize recommendations

Topic	Meeting Dates and Agenda Items
State Employee Pay Plan - monitoring	*March 22, 2018  - Staff report, background on LFC study, status of implementation of changes, *what LJIC may be doing to address pay issues for correctional officers  - *Dept. of Administration staff briefings on recruitment and retention, vacancies, and pay disparity issues, including with prison guards.  May 17, 2018  - Followup from March, any preliminary recommendations  *July 19, 2018  - Finalize recommendations, if any
Statutory Oversight Duties	All Meetings - Rule Review Agenda Item *May 17, 2018 - Info. briefing on Interstate compact for Military Children July 19, 2018 - Begin reviewing agency legislative proposals - Dept. of Administration - Dept. of Military Affairs and Board of Veterans' Affairs - Secretary of State's Office - Commissioner of Political Practices Aug. 23, 2018 - Finish review of agency legislative proposals - Any follow up from agencies listed in July - Public Employees' Retirement Board - Teachers' Retirement Board Nov. 2018 - Any adjustments to or new proposals by PERB and TRB proposals

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